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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 1162 Session of  
2022

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INTRODUCED BY BARTOLOTTA, TARTAGLIONE, SCHWANK, KANE, KEARNEY,  
ROBINSON AND BAKER, MARCH 28, 2022

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REFERRED TO LABOR AND INDUSTRY, MARCH 28, 2022

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AN ACT

1 Establishing the PennSERVE Office within the Department of Labor  
2 and Industry; creating the PennSERVE Advisory Board;  
3 providing for coordination of Commonwealth community service  
4 programs; and making a related repeal.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the PennSERVE  
9 Act.

10 Section 2. Purpose.

11 (a) Declarations.--The General Assembly hereby declares the  
12 following:

13 (1) Service to others is a hallmark of the American  
14 character. Throughout history, Pennsylvanians have stepped up  
15 to meet challenges by volunteering in their communities.

16 (2) Throughout Pennsylvania communities, there are unmet  
17 human, environmental and economic needs.

18 (3) Pennsylvanians of all ages can improve their  
19 communities and become more civically engaged through service

1 and volunteerism.

2 (b) Intent.--It is the intent of the General Assembly that  
3 this act promotes the following:

4 (1) Making community service the common expectation and  
5 experience of all Pennsylvanians.

6 (2) Renewing the ethic of civic responsibility in this  
7 Commonwealth.

8 (3) Involving and enrolling individuals in service  
9 opportunities that will benefit this Commonwealth while  
10 offering workforce development and life skills.

11 (4) Building on the existing organizational framework of  
12 State, local and community-based programs and agencies to  
13 expand full-time and part-time service opportunities for all  
14 eligible individuals.

15 (5) Combining the energy, wisdom, strength and time of  
16 our younger and older populations in order to address vital  
17 social needs.

18 Section 3. Definitions.

19 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
20 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
21 context clearly indicates otherwise:

22 "Board." The PennSERVE Advisory Board established under  
23 section 8.

24 "Community-based agency." A private, nonprofit organization  
25 that is representative of a community or a significant segment  
26 of a community that is engaged in meeting human, educational or  
27 environmental community needs.

28 "Community service." The performance of tasks designated to  
29 accomplish any of the following:

30 (1) The promotion of the well-being of children, older

1 adults, persons with physical or developmental disabilities  
2 or persons with low incomes.

3 (2) Educational development, including literacy  
4 training, adult basic education courses or instruction in job  
5 search skills, job application skills, school readiness or  
6 postsecondary access.

7 (3) Projects or activities calculated to improve public  
8 health and safety.

9 (4) Environmental preservation, enhancement and  
10 remediation, including the conservation of natural habitats,  
11 maintenance of public lands or promotion of environmental  
12 stewardship.

13 (5) Activities to increase the preparation of  
14 individuals for disasters, improve individuals' readiness to  
15 respond to disasters, help individuals recover from disasters  
16 or help mitigate disasters.

17 (6) Facilitate access to services and resources that  
18 contribute to the economic well-being of Pennsylvanians,  
19 including financial literacy, healthy and affordable housing  
20 or improved employment readiness or skills.

21 (7) Impact the quality of life of veterans and military  
22 families.

23 (8) Educational activities, through a Pennsylvania  
24 education system or community or governmental entity, which  
25 instill an ethic of civic responsibility and citizenship in  
26 all Pennsylvanians and in particular young Pennsylvanians.

27 "Department." The Department of Labor and Industry of the  
28 Commonwealth.

29 "National and Community Service Act of 1990." The National  
30 and Community Service Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-610, 104 Stat.

1 3127), as amended.

2 "Office." The PennSERVE Office within the department  
3 established under section 4.

4 Section 4. PennSERVE Office established.

5 The PennSERVE Office is established within the department.  
6 The department shall provide staff, space, equipment and  
7 supplies for the office for the discharge of office duties.

8 Section 5. Responsibilities and duties of office.

9 The office shall:

10 (1) Administer programs of the National and Community  
11 Service Act of 1990 for the Commonwealth.

12 (2) Develop a three-year comprehensive national and  
13 community service plan and establishment of Commonwealth  
14 priorities.

15 (3) Administer a competitive process in compliance with  
16 Federal regulations to select service programs to be included  
17 in the applications to the Federal agency responsible for  
18 administering the National and Community Service Act of 1990.

19 (4) Administer, oversee and monitor the performance and  
20 progress of funded programs, including evaluation, monitoring  
21 and providing technical assistance.

22 (5) Assist in the development of high-quality community  
23 service programs.

24 (6) Develop mechanisms for recruitment and placement of  
25 individuals interested in participating in service programs,  
26 with a special emphasis on engaging disconnected youth and  
27 individuals from unserved communities.

28 (7) Facilitate publicity and recognition of volunteerism  
29 and community service.

30 Section 6. State coordination.

1 (a) Consultation.--The office shall meet and consult with  
2 other bureaus and offices of the department to coordinate and  
3 enhance the quality and efficiency of service, workforce  
4 development and job training programs.

5 (b) Education services.--The office may develop jointly with  
6 the Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Higher  
7 Education Assistance Agency a plan to increase community service  
8 opportunities for students and graduates. The office may assist  
9 the Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Higher  
10 Education Assistance Agency in preparing a public information  
11 program for students and graduates to apprise them of community  
12 service options.

13 (c) Aging services.--The office may work with the Department  
14 of Aging to expand service opportunities that combine the human  
15 resources of younger Pennsylvanians with the human resources of  
16 older Pennsylvanians to expand intergenerational programs.

17 (d) Health services.--The office may develop with the  
18 Department of Health a proposal that will allow young people to  
19 be involved in health-related activities, including educational  
20 programs that are aimed at increasing awareness in communities  
21 and educational institutions about community health problems.

22 Section 7. Federal coordination.

23 The office shall serve as the liaison between the Federal  
24 Government and State, county and local governments for  
25 submitting grant proposals, accessing funds, seeking changes in  
26 Federal community service laws and regulations and related  
27 purposes.

28 Section 8. PennSERVE Advisory Board.

29 (a) Establishment.--The PennSERVE Advisory Board is  
30 established within the department.

1 (b) Voting members.--

2 (1) The board shall include at least 15 voting members  
3 but not more than 25 voting members, who shall serve for  
4 renewable three-year terms consistent with Federal  
5 regulations issued under the National and Community Service  
6 Act of 1990.

7 (2) Voting members of the board shall include the  
8 following:

9 (i) The Secretary of Labor and Industry, or a  
10 designee, who shall serve as the presiding officer of the  
11 board.

12 (ii) The Secretary of Education or a designee.

13 (iii) The following individuals appointed by the  
14 Governor:

15 (A) A representative of a community-based agency  
16 or organization in this Commonwealth.

17 (B) A representative of local government in this  
18 Commonwealth.

19 (C) A representative of local labor  
20 organizations in this Commonwealth.

21 (D) A representative of business.

22 (E) An individual who is at least 16 years of  
23 age, less than 26 years of age and who is a  
24 participant or supervisor of a service program for  
25 school-age youth or of a campus-based or national  
26 service program.

27 (F) A representative of a national service  
28 program.

29 (G) An individual with expertise in the  
30 educational, training and development needs of youth,

1 particularly disadvantaged youth.

2 (H) An individual with experience in promoting  
3 the involvement of older adults who are 55 years of  
4 age or older in service and volunteerism.

5 (I) A representative of the volunteer sector.

6 (iv) A member of the Senate appointed by the  
7 Majority Leader of the Senate, or a designee.

8 (v) A member of the House of Representatives  
9 appointed by the Majority Leader of the House of  
10 Representatives, or a designee.

11 (vi) A member of the Senate appointed by the  
12 Minority Leader of the Senate, or a designee.

13 (vii) A member of the House of Representatives  
14 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of  
15 Representatives, or a designee.

16 (3) The Governor may appoint voting members of the board  
17 who are educators, including representatives from  
18 institutions of higher education and local education  
19 agencies, and experts in the delivery of human, educational,  
20 environmental or public safety services to communities and  
21 individuals.

22 (c) Representation.--A voting member of the board may  
23 represent none, one or more than one category specified in  
24 subsection (b) (2) (iii).

25 (d) Ex officio, nonvoting members.--The board shall include  
26 the following public officials as ex officio, nonvoting members:

27 (1) The Secretary of Aging, or a designee.

28 (2) The Secretary of Community and Economic Development,  
29 or a designee.

30 (3) The Secretary of Corrections, or a designee.

1 (4) The Secretary of Health, or a designee.

2 (5) The Secretary of Human Services, or a designee.

3 (6) The executive director of the Pennsylvania Higher  
4 Education Assistance Agency, or a designee.

5 (e) Public officials.--The terms of office of the elected  
6 public officials designated in subsection (b)(2)(iii)(B), (iv),  
7 (v), (vi) and (vii) shall coincide with the terms of their  
8 respective elective or appointive offices. Public official  
9 members shall continue to serve after the expiration of their  
10 term until the appointing authority appoints a replacement  
11 unless the member is no longer a public official at the time of  
12 their term expiration.

13 (f) Federal representative.--Consistent with Federal  
14 regulations, the individual who is an employee of the Federal  
15 agency responsible for administering the National and Community  
16 Service Act of 1990 and who is designated to serve as a  
17 representative to each State or group of States shall be  
18 included as an ex officio, nonvoting member on the board.

19 (g) Diversity.--To the extent practicable, the board shall  
20 be diverse with respect to race, ethnicity, religion, age,  
21 gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability  
22 characteristics and geographic representation.

23 (h) Chairperson.--The chairperson of the board shall be  
24 elected by the voting members of the board. To be eligible to  
25 serve as chairperson, an individual must be an appointed, voting  
26 member of the board.

27 (i) Rules.--The board may adopt rules governing its  
28 organization and procedures.

29 (j) Compensation.--The members of the board shall receive no  
30 compensation for their services on the board but shall be

1 reimbursed by the department for ordinary and necessary expenses  
2 incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the  
3 board.

4 (k) Consultation.--The board shall consult with and advise  
5 the office on the development of a Statewide plan for expansion  
6 of community service opportunities.

7 (l) Goals.--The board shall:

8 (1) Encourage all Pennsylvanians to participate in  
9 community service.

10 (2) Disseminate information concerning community  
11 service.

12 (3) Monitor the effectiveness and geographical  
13 distribution of community service programs.

14 (m) Novel programs.--The board may develop novel community  
15 service programs.

16 (n) Support services.--The board shall be supported in its  
17 duties by the staff of the office and may use operational  
18 support services of the office, such as mailing and duplication  
19 services, to carry out its duties.

20 Section 9. Repeal.

21 Repeals are as follows:

22 (1) The repeal under paragraph (2) is necessary to  
23 effectuate this act.

24 (2) Article XXII-B of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177,  
25 No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, is  
26 repealed.

27 Section 10. Effective date.

28 This act shall take effect immediately.